

THOMAS P. MURT, MEMBER
152ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE:
19 South York Road
Hatboro, PA 19040
Phone: (215) 674-3755
Fax: (215) 674-3021

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
PO Box 202152
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2152
Phone: (717) 787-6886
Fax: (717) 782-2886

www.RepMurt.com
[Facebook.com/RepMurt](https://www.facebook.com/RepMurt)



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES:
Human Services
Subcommittee on Mental Health, Chairman
Labor & Industry
Insurance
Urban Affairs

CAUCUSES:
Intellectual Disabilities & Autism, Chairman
Mental Health, Chairman
At-Risk Children, Family & Communities
Arts & Culture
Community College

COUNCIL:
Delaware Valley Veterans Home

24 AUG 2016

Secretary Patrick McDonnell
Department of Environmental Protection
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Acceptable levels of PFOS and PFOA in Commonwealth drinking water

Dear Secretary McDonnell,

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through the Environmental Quality Board has the authority in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to set many environmental standards. One such standard is the establishment of the acceptable levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in our drinking water.

At present, the standard of PFOA and PFOS allowable in Commonwealth drinking water is set at 70 parts per trillion (ppt). Many questions have arisen as to what an acceptable standard of PFOA and PFOS in our drinking should be relative to public health and safety. Know that New Jersey has a standard of 40 ppt, while Vermont has a standard of 20 ppt.

Measurements of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water have spiked in Eastern Montgomery County where contamination of public and private wells has occurred. This is a result of PFOA and PFOS chemicals being used in fire suppression foams by U.S. Navy firefighters at the Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove. These chemicals have now leaked into local water supplies causing great alarm to local residents. There are many legitimate and reasonable concerns regarding this contamination.

A great deal of research exists which suggests that higher levels of PFOA and PFOS contamination have negative consequences upon public health and safety as well as on the developmental, immune, metabolic, and endocrine health of the general public. State-of-the-art technology in the form of in-plant filtration and the use of carbon filters on wells can achieve the goal of lowering the acceptable levels of PFOA and PFOS in the short-term.

In our considered opinion, it is clearly time for the DEP to act to lower the acceptable standard of PFOA and PFOS levels in drinking water in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The DEP is empowered to achieve this goal through the Environmental Quality Board.

Page 2

Secretary Patrick McDonnell

24 AUG 2016

We respectfully request that the Environmental Quality Board take action and lower the standard to non-detectable levels as quickly as possible. We believe this action will provide a higher level of protection for our constituents in Montgomery County as well as all the people of the Commonwealth. In addition, it will enhance public health and safety across our Commonwealth. We respectfully request your immediate attention to this matter.

Most sincerely,



Rep. Todd Stephens
151st Legislative District



Rep. Thomas P. Murt
152nd Legislative District